



WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 10, 2015

8:00 am

Public Works Meeting Room

Meeting called by: Jason Skeels and Ellie Kurth (both attending)

Type of meeting: Regularly Scheduled

Attendees: WSP Committee Members: Lyons Witten (Chair), John Tobiason (note taker), Steve Maybee, Steve Dunn, Rebecca Fricke, Brian Yellen. Others: David Ziomek (Town), Brad Bordewieck (Town), Sigurd Nilson (Amherst Woods Homeowners Assoc.), Larry Kelley (public)

MINUTES

1. Minutes from April 9, 2015 meeting reviewed and approved
2. Snow and ice road treatments and ground water monitoring data
 - Reviewed 2010-2015 tabulated data for storms, costs, and amounts of sand, salt and “ice ban” utilized. Now have two years of data for the “no sand” approach. Snow depth, number of storms, and amount of chemicals used for 2015 significantly greater than for 2014. Continuing to gather and evaluate data.
 - Reviewed plots of 1997 – 2015 annual water quality data for 6 wells (Road Salt/Septic System/Oil and Gas Storage Group). Committee suggests increased monitoring of conductivity at 2 times per month for wells 1-89 and 3-89 to assess seasonal variability, increasing ability to observe potential road salting impacts. As ice-ban includes organic matter (molasses), suggest adding measurements of total organic carbon to water quality data.
3. Update on sewer and water line extensions and replacements
 - a. Harkness Road: Drinking water work done, some service connections made. Sewer: awaiting power connection to pump station by Eversource. Paving soon.
 - b. Amherst Woods: Phase 1 complete; awaiting alignment test on Woodlot Rd, to be combined with Harkness Road pump station start up. Woodlot Rd dewatering demobilization: removed top 5-8 ft of 12 inch PVC pipes, backfill with native material, 1 ft thick concrete over 36 inch diameter boring areas. Phase 2. No update on timing or possible phasing. 95% design, may be sub-divided into separate bid/construction packages.
 - c. Harris/Fisher Streets: In house design and construction for new water main, sewer repairs. Expect to install 8 inch water main, 1500 ft length, summer 2016.

- d. Northampton Road (Rte 9): Replace 6, 8, 12 inch water main, lots of utilities, state highway, within some years, in-house design, bid construction.
- e. Shumway Street: Rte 9 to Main street. Redo water and sewer. Community Development block grant funding, in house design, bid construction.
- 4. Wells, water treatment plants, and storage tanks:
 - a. Update on Centennial WTP upgrades: Pilot report for treatment processes approved by DEP. Dissolved air flotation (DAF) for clarification, PACl and pH control for coagulation, 2-3 yrs out on doing work. Not sure between full plant replacement versus update inside process equip only.
- 5. Watershed protection activities
 - a. Watershed forestry projects: Planned cuts compartments 5, 6 in Pelham (both sides of Brewer Rd). Town Land Manager (and forester) Brad W. at meeting, explained work. Proposed harvesting is next to road. Overall forest management plan for watershed, done in 2004 by Lincoln Fish. Expect to work on this part over next few seasons. Parcel had 10-15 ft tall regeneration growth, now blocked by tall/old trees overstory. Hemlock. Birch have necrotic canker, some pine scale. Managing for water quality (multi-species, multi age forest). Generates small amount of revenue. Historically conservative approach taken.
 - b. Review of property acquisition projects
 - i. Parcel 6B-50 on Overlook Drive, Amherst (~1 acre) acquired in May with grant support
 - ii. Property on Sumner Mountain Road, Shutesbury (~25 acres) acquired in June with grant support.
 - iii. New projects: working on DW supply grant for a new property in Pelham, Romer Woods, 141 acres, abutting Amethyst Brook (map provided). Appraised at 450,000. Owner offered to sell at 75%, \$341,000. State will reimburse 50%. Been in Chapter 61, has forest management plan.
- 6. Selected date for January 2016 meeting: ***Thursday January 21 2016, 8:00 am.*** (Note: second semester classes at UMass start January 19).
- 7. The WSP Committee continues to have an opening for one new member.
- 8. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.